

As a leader in the civil rights movement, a poet laureate, a college professor, Broadway actress and the first female African American cable car conductor in San Francisco, Maya Angelou was the spirit and conscience of generations. With her passing on May 28, 2014, we continue to be inspired by her life's work.

Born on April 4, 1928, Dr. Maya Angelou was raised in Stamps, Arkansas and St. Louis, Missouri. At a young age, Dr. Angelou experienced the brutality of racial discrimination which drove her passion for justice and equality.

In the early 1950s, Dr. Maya Angelou began her career as a performer. She toured with the production Porgy and Bess through Europe for two years. While living in Ghana, Dr. Angelou met with Malcolm X who encouraged her to move back to the United States to help him build the Organization of African American Unity. After the assassination of Malcolm X, Dr. Maya Angelou worked with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., serving as the Northern Coordinator for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

Her autobiography, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, was nominated for a National Book Award in 1970 and remained on *The New York Times* paperback bestseller list for two years.

In addition to Dr. Angelou's prolific career, she has been honored with many prestigious awards. She was awarded the Presidential Medal of Arts in 2000 and received over 50 honorary degrees. President Bill Clinton asked her to compose a poem for his inauguration in 1993, making her the second poet to ever read a poem at a Presidential Inauguration.

President Barack Obama bestowed Dr. Maya Angelou the 2010 Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian award of the United States of America.

I will forever cherish the private moments I had the privilege to share with Dr. Maya Angelou. I was very moved when several years ago Maya called me and invited me to her beautiful home to talk. We spoke in her living room as sisters, about our lives, our struggles and our passion for improving the human condition. I confided in her about the many challenges I faced after voting against the Authorization for the Use of Military Force following the 9/11 attacks. I can never repay the encouragement and affirmation she gave me during that trying time as she reminded me that we all embody attributes of scripture's Proverbs 31, virtuous woman. And that our worth is far beyond rubies, we speak with wisdom and are clothed with strength and dignity.

I was humbled that she insisted I write my autobiography. Once I finally garnered the courage to do so, she invited me to discuss it on her radio show and encouraged me to speed up the release of my paperback edition so that more people, especially young women, could have access to my story.

Dr. Maya Angelou was passionate about helping young women achieve their fullest potential. Her example of grace, class and humility will continue to inspire young women to define themselves through a lens of self-love, humanitarianism and how they use their talents to change the world.

She lived life to its fullest and shared with the world the essence of a purposeful life. I will hold her words, ". . . be certain that you do not die without having done something wonderful for humanity" close to my heart,

knowing that she was one of humanity's greatest gifts.

Today, California's 13th Congressional District salutes and honors an outstanding individual and leader, Dr. Maya Angelou. While the world grieves in Dr. Maya Angelou's passing, we can take comfort in the fact that her words and her legacy live on in the generations of people who have been touched, challenged and inspired by her work. We will miss her tremendously, but Dr. Maya Angelou's legacy and spirit will live on forever.

#### RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF BILLY MANES

**HON. ALAN GRAYSON**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 18, 2014*

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Pride Month, to recognize Billy Manes. Billy Manes is senior staff writer for *Orlando Weekly*, an alternative newsweekly dedicated to giving the deserved breadth, character and feeling to stories that are often overlooked.

Immediately after graduating from the Florida State University, Manes began a career in journalism, helping to launch an alternative weekly out of the Tallahassee Democrat offices in 1995.

In 1997, Manes moved to Orlando and began freelancing for *Orlando Weekly*, soon developing a following as a pop-cultural raconteur and nightlife columnist. In 2005, he ran for Mayor of Orlando in a special election which was later cancelled. Nonetheless, Manes caught the political bug, and soon became a full-time news reporter for *Orlando Weekly*.

In 2007, Manes detailed the difficulties facing gay couples who were seeking legal validation for their relationships in the face of an imminent marriage ban in Florida. Controversy arose when a photo of Manes and his long-time partner kissing was used as the cover photo of *Orlando Weekly* for the article.

In 2012, that story would prove all too prescient, when Manes' partner of 11 years, Alan Ray Jordan, passed away, setting off a string of horrible events pitting Manes against both his partner's family and the laws of the State of Florida.

Manes went on to document that fight in what would become a globally circulated story and later, a documentary. He traveled to Tallahassee two years in a row to fight for a state-wide domestic partnership registry so that others might not have to experience the pain that he had.

In addition to numerous awards over the years from the Association of Alternative Newsmedia, the Sunshine State Awards, and the Florida Press Club, Manes was named a 2013 Voice of Equality by Equality Florida.

He would like to dedicate this honor to his family and, most especially, to the man who taught him the most, Alan Ray Jordan.

I am happy to honor Billy Manes, during LGBT Pride Month, for his contributions to the LGBT community and the State of Florida.

#### MARKING THE PASSING OF WILLIAM ROTH

**HON. NANCY PELOSI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 18, 2014*

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, our country has lost a great visionary, civic leader, businessman and dedicated public servant, William Matson Roth. Mr. Roth passed away on May 29th in Petaluma, California at the age of 97, surrounded by his loving family.

Bill Roth was born into a prominent and respected family in San Francisco, grandson of Captain William Matson, founder of the Matson Navigation Company, and son of Luriline and William Philip Roth. He chose to use the opportunities afforded by his privileged family to make life better for his community, his state and his nation.

He was widely known for the redevelopment, with his mother Luriline, of the popular Ghirardelli Square in San Francisco, buying the property as a dilapidated factory and growing it into a world-renowned collection of shops and restaurants that has been one of our City's top attractions and has been imitated in cities across the country. It is now considered a forerunner of what urban planners call "adaptive reuse," and is listed on the National Historic Register.

Mr. Roth served the public throughout his long life, including as a Cabinet-level Trade Ambassador in "the Kennedy round" of negotiations under President Lyndon Johnson. Mr. Roth was appointed to the University of California's Board of Regents by Governor Edmund G. "Pat" Brown, where he served for 16 years. He helped found the Ploughshares Fund, an advocacy group working for the elimination of nuclear weapons. He was President of the Board of the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, a director of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), and president of the San Francisco Planning and Urban Research Association (SPUR). He was a proud and progressive Democrat who ran for Governor of California in 1974.

I hope that it is a comfort to his beloved wife Joan, his daughters Anna, Jessica and Maggie, and his grand and great-grandchildren that so many people throughout the world share their grief and mourn the loss of a generous, civic-minded and visionary leader.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF CHIEF ERIC METZGER

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 18, 2014*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the dedicated service of Chief Eric Metzger of the Flower Mound Fire Department. After almost 4 decades in public service, Chief Metzger's exemplary career is coming to an end.

Eric Metzger's passion for public service and fire fighting started at a young age; when growing up in Pleasanton, California, his next door neighbor was the Chief of the Oakland Fire Department. His 39-year fire service career began in Wimer, Oregon, where he